

1955



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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Borough of Clifton Dartmouth Hardness

D. K. MacTAGGART, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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V. E. HUGHES, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.H.

Sanitary Inspector,

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Medical Officer of Health

for 1955

*The the Worshipful the Mayor and Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Clifton Dartmouth Hardness*

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1955 in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health.

The health of the borough continues to be good with no marked changes in the vital statistics and no undue incidence of infectious disease, as can be seen from the figures in the following pages.

With regard to the vital statistics, there was a decrease in the total births occurring, from 83 in 1954 to 66 in 1955. This gives a crude birth rate of 11.32 per thousand population, and when adjusted for variations in the age and sex make-up of the population, the corrected birth rate is 12.15 per thousand population which compares with 11.16 in 1954, and a figure of 15.0 for England and Wales as a whole in 1955.

The total number of deaths during the year was 83, the same number as in the previous year, and this gives a crude death rate of 11.23 per thousand population and a corrected death rate of 11.38 per thousand. The rate for 1954 was 11.32 and for England and Wales in 1955, was 11.7. These differences in the figures between the years are not of great significance as such fluctuations do occur when comparatively small numbers are involved such as the numbers of births and deaths in Dartmouth.

The chief causes of death were as follows:—

Malignant Disease	13
Vascular lesions of the Nervous System (Strokes)	12
Heart Disease	28
Disease of the Respiratory System	10

These diseases, those which mainly attack people in the older age groups, were responsible for 76 per cent of all the deaths in the borough.

The incidence of infectious disease has continued to be low, the most notable item being the biennial epidemic of measles which occurred in the later months of the year. Of the 151 cases of infectious disease notified during the year, 138 were suffering from measles. There was a marked drop in the numbers of new cases of tuberculosis, only four being notified as against 13 in 1954, but here again fluctuations such as this are to be expected due to the small numbers involved.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Based on the Registrar General's figures

1.

Area in acres	1925
Population—Census 1951 (April)	6707
Registrar-General's estimated resident population 1953	5853
Registrar-General's estimated resident population 1955	5830
Number of inhabited houses, 1954	1819
Number of inhabited houses, 1955	1803
Rateable value	£56,941
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£228

2.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year

	Total	Male	F'male
Live Births	66	32	34
Legitimate	66	32	34
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Still Births	1	0	1
Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Crude Birth Rate per thousand estimated resident population			11.32
Comparability Factor			1.10
Corrected Birth Rate			12.45
	Total	Male	F'male
Deaths	83	43	40
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			14.23
Comparability Factor			0.80
Standardised Death Rate			11.38
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child-birth:			
Puerperal Sepsis			0
Other Puerperal Causes			0
	Total	Male	F'male
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	2	1	1
Legitimate	2	1	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	2	1	1
Legitimate	2	1	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Death rate of infants per 1,000 live births			24.09

Causes of Death during 1955

	Total	Male	F'male
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	1	1	0
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	0	0	0
Syphilitic disease	1	0	1
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Mening-coccal infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Other inf. and parasitic dis.	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	0	1
" " lung, bronchus	3	2	1
" " breast	0	0	0
" " uterus	1	0	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	8	3	5
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0	0
Diabetes	0	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	12	7	5
Coronary disease, angina	12	6	6
Hypertension with heart disease ...	1	0	1
Other heart disease	8	7	1
Other circulatory disease	7	3	4
Influenza	1	0	1
Pneumonia	1	1	0
Bronchitis	6	5	1
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	2	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	0	0	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	0	0	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	0	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
Congenital malformations	0	0	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	11	5	6
Motor vehicle accidents	0	0	0
All other accidents	3	1	2
Suicide	1	1	0
Homicide and operations of war ...	2	0	2
All causes	Total	83	43
		40	

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease

The number of cases of notifiable diseases are listed in the table below. The most notable feature is the outbreak of Measles of which there were 138 cases. This took place during the months of November and December.

Diseases other than Tuberculosis, notified during the year

Disease	Cases notified		
	Male	Female	Total
Scarlet Fever	2	—	2
Whooping Cough	2	1	3
Acute Polyomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	64	74	138
Acute Primary Pneumonia	4	—	4
Food poisoning	—	1	1
Chicken-Pox	2	—	2
Malaria	1	—	1
	—	—	—
	75	76	151

Tuberculosis

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	3	—	3
Non-Pulmonary	1	—	1
	—	—	—
	4	—	4

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

Samples taken by the Sanitary Inspector, are examined and reported upon by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter.

The procedure adopted as a safeguard against the infection of milk by tubercle bacilli and other organisms is detailed by the Sanitary Inspector. Prompt steps are taken to ensure that any suspected raw and untreated milk ceases to be distributed without delay, in the borough.

Ice Cream

Examination of samples by the Public Health Labora-

tory Service at Exeter has continued. Ice Cream is graded as follows:—

Provisional Grade	Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue	Interpretation
1.	4½ hours or more	Satisfactory
2.	2½ to 4 hours	Fair
3.	½ to 2 hours	Unsatisfactory
4.	0	Very Bad

Your Officers investigate and advise in all cases where satisfactory results are not obtained. It should be noted that the chemical and bacteriological testing of ice cream remains yet on trial in a scientific sense and has not reached that stage of being able to be used in taking of statutory action.

Meat

It is very satisfactory to note that the quality of meat inspected at the Abattoir has improved, and that the amount of disease discovered was markedly less, although there was a rise in the incidence of tuberculous in pigs.

Water Supplies

Supply has been adequate. Chlorination has been continued at the main source as a final treatment after filtration. By maintaining a relatively high dosage of chlorine, the Water Board have continued to obtain a final satisfactory drinking water.

There are 38 properties scattered about the Borough which get their supply of water from private sources. The majority of these sources of supply are from springs or shallow wells situated invariably on agricultural land and are, with the exception of one, unfiltered and unchlorinated.

Water samples taken through the year have revealed some evidence of bacterial contamination, but there has been a general improvement in the situation, as those supplies showing the most consistent rate of contamination have been eliminated and the premises concerned are now supplied by the South Devon Water Board.

Housing

Housing details and visits made are noted in the report by the Sanitary Inspector. Additional visits have been made by your Medical Officer in connection with applications for rehousing recommended upon medical grounds by certificates from general medical practitioners. Visits have also been paid to see Aged People and inspect their housing conditions in

connection with your statutory duties under the National Assistance Act.

In addition, a survey of the Housing conditions of the borough was made in accordance with the Housing Acts 1936-54, and a scheme of slum clearance was drawn up affecting 38 properties.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

i LABORATORY FACILITIES are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health), Public Health Laboratory, 7, Dix's Field, Exeter. Specimens are submitted from private practitioners and from this Department for bacteriological examination.

ii AMBULANCE SERVICES

This service is under the general direction of the County Medical Officer (Ambulance Section), "Ivybank," 45, St. David's Hill, Exeter (telephone Exeter 4051). Dartmouth has one ambulance, which is run by the St. John Ambulance and Nursing Brigade under an agency agreement with the Devon County Council. The ambulance is used for emergency and non-infectious stretcher cases, and may be called by doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives, hospitals or clinics. The ambulance station is situated at Roseville Street, Dartmouth—telephone Dartmouth 76/77.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AMBULANCE

Ambulance arrangements for infectious disease (other than smallpox) are made by the Torquay Isolation Hospital (telephone Torquay 63276) for cases entering the hospital from the Dartmouth area.

HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE

The Hospital Car Service (organised by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, British Red Cross Society and the Women's Voluntary Service) operates under an agency agreement with the Devon County Council for sitting cases.

iii HOSPITALS

The Dartmouth and Kingswear Hospital, situated at The Embankment, Dartmouth (telephone Dartmouth 41), is administered by the Regional Hospital Board. Patients from

Dartmouth also attend the Torbay Hospital, Torquay, which is the principal general hospital for the area.

iv CLINICS

The Devon County Council have a clinic situated at Mayor's Avenue, Dartmouth, where mothers of young children attend for advice on the care of young children. School children attend for treatment of minor ailments, for dental treatment, and for advice and treatment at an Eye Clinic held there.

v HEALTH VISITORS

There is one Health Visitor—Mrs. Travis—who combines school medical duties with health visiting. She is on the staff of the County Medical Officer.

vi NURSING IN THE HOME

This service is provided by the Local Health Authority (Devon County Council), and the following nurses carry out these duties in Dartmouth:

Miss Culley, 11, Fairview Road, Dartmouth. Telephone Dartmouth 268.

Miss Stirling, 11, Fairview Road, Dartmouth. Telephone Dartmouth 268.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948/53

Section 47 of the Act of 1948, as amended, relates to the removal to suitable premises of persons who are suffering from grave chronic disease, or being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated are living in insanitary conditions, and are unable to devote to themselves and are not receiving from other persons, proper care or attention.

Action was taken under the provisions of this section, in only one case during the year.

I wish to record my appreciation of the support I have received from the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, and also of the loyal and efficient help which I have received from Mr. Hughes, the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

D. K. MacTAGGART,
Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Sanitary Inspector

To the Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman and Councillors

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my report for the year ending the 31st December, 1955.

SECTION D

HOUSING

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|--|-----|
| (1) | (a) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health Act or Housing Acts) | 230 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 830 |
| (2) | (a) | Number of dwelling-houses (included in the sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 | 28 |
| (3) | | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 37 |
| (4) | | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 85 |

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	83
--	----

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

- | | |
|---|---|
| (a) Proceedings, under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:— | |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs | 0 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices: | |
| (a) By Owners | 0 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | 0 |
| (b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:— | |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requesting defects to be remedied | 2 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices:— | |
| (a) By Owners | 2 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | 0 |
| (c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:— | |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 1 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | 3 |
| (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:— | |
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 4 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | 0 |

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART VI. OVERCROWDING

- | | |
|--|---|
| (a) (1) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year | 0 |
| (2) Number of families dwelling therein | 0 |

	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	0
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c)	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	3
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	14
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have once again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ...	0

166 complaints were received and dealt with during the year and 230 houses were inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts. Four unfit premises were closed for human habitation.

Three houses were demolished during the year, and a further thirty-eight were surveyed and recorded for attention under slum clearance procedure. It is unfortunate that clearance schemes have coincided with the cessation of Council house building. Generally speaking property has been fairly well maintained during the year and nine applications were made for improvement grants, principally for the installation of bathrooms and hot water supplies to older houses in the town, the majority of which were built without these facilities. All but one of the applications were from owner-occupiers. Eight of the applications were granted, the remaining one did not qualify.

ABRIDGED SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED AND INSPECTED

Roofs	...	...	...	...	...	25
External Walls	...	...	...	...	...	22
Internal Plastering	...	...	...	...	...	12
Ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	3
Floors	...	...	...	...	...	12
Windows	...	...	...	...	...	5
Fireplaces	...	...	...	...	...	4
Doors	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	12
Premises cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	22

DRAINAGE

Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	61
Tests carried out	...	...	...	...	...	42
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	28
Gullies provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Sinks	...	...	...	...	...	10
Rainwater pipes and gutters	...	...	...	...	...	17
Water closets provided, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	13
New drains laid (excluding new properties)	...	...	...	...	...	20
Inspection chambers built or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	11

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY

There were five registered dairies in the Borough at the beginning of the year. One of these has now been taken over by a larger company. The one pasteurising plant has continued to work satisfactorily throughout the year. All producers send their milk to be pasteurised with the exception of one who continues to retail tuberculin tested farm bottled milk. There appears to be insufficient supervision of those farms still producing non-designated milk, which, even though pasteurised, should be produced under satisfactory conditions.

Thirty samples of milk were sent to the laboratory for the methylene blue test. Twenty of these passed the test, two failed, and were referred to the County Milk Production Officer for investigation. Eight were spoilt in transit due to having been overcarried by British Railways and arriving late at the Laboratory. Two samples of school milk passed the cleanliness, pasteurisation and tuberculin tests.

(b) FOOD PREMISES

One new cafe and a multiple store were opened during the year and one greengrocer's shop was closed, leaving the number of food premises at 87. There was a steady improvement in general hygiene of most food premises. Ten notices were required for various reasons, mostly of a minor nature, all were promptly complied with. Investigations were carried out in respect of bread which had turned sour and pies which had gone mouldy, both due to the unusually hot weather during the summer. In both cases the whole of the remaining stock was withdrawn. Warning was given to occupiers of shops where it had been found that food in containers was left on the doorstep by a wholesaler before the shop was open. The sale of cream from unregistered premises was investigated and stopped. Food premises generally were visited on 576 occasions during the year this figure does not include visits to the Abattoir.

New printed notices regarding dogs in food shops were issued to premises concerned. Response has not been good and without legislation, is not likely to be.

Visits made were as follows:—

Market and Stalls ...	...	...	...	...	43
Cafes and Restaurants ...	...	...	...	...	101
Bakehouses and Confectioners ...	...	...	...	...	52
Hotels ...	...	...	...	...	34
Ice Cream Premises ...	...	...	...	...	60
Wet and Fried Fish Shops ...	...	...	...	...	22
Canteens ...	...	...	...	...	3
Butchers ...	...	...	...	...	135
Fruit and Grocery ...	...	...	...	...	91
Dairies ...	...	...	...	...	35

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. killed (if known)	... 243	46	11	1854	735	—
No. inspected	... 243	46	11	1854	735	—

All diseases exc. Tuberculosis and Cysticerçi

Whole carcases							
condemned ...	—	2	—	4	1	—	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	70	19	—	192	38	—	
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerçi ...	28.8	45.7	—	10.6	5.3	—	

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcases							
condemned ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	5	5	—	—	30	—	
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	2.1	15.2	—	—	4.1	—	

Cysticercosis

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	

MEAT INSPECTION

Increasing use was made of the Public Abattoir during the year. Selective buying of animals by private traders resulted in better meat and a lower incidence of disease discovered on post mortem inspection. This was most marked in the case of cows and is probably explained by the tuberculin testing scheme. Cattle other than cows, however, showed a slight increase in disease, other than tuberculosis, mostly of parasitic origin.

There appears to be no abatement of the incidence of cysticerçi in cattle. The parasite has been found to be far more prevalent in prime, well nourished cattle than in the poorer sorts. Fortunately no generalised cases were discovered and only affected parts were condemned, the remainder being sent for treatment by freezing.

Farmers could do much to eradicate the parasites, par-

ticularly liver flukes and thus save themselves, the butchers and the country as a whole, considerable loss. Pigs showed an increased incidence of tuberculosis, which can only be explained by the lack of care by producers in boiling of swill, which is compulsory. With some difficulty all animals slaughtered during the year, some 2,889, were inspected, post mortem. In spite of reduced staff, the Abattoir was well maintained. All condemned meat was coloured to signify that it was unfit for human consumption and disposed of to a reputable firm for processing.

OTHER UNSOUND FOOD INSPECTED, CONDEMNED AND DESTROYED

	Ibs.		Ibs.
Bacon	112 $\frac{1}{4}$	Tinned Peas	8
Dried Milk	56	„ Soup	1
Pork Pies	24	„ Minced Beef Loaf	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Egg Pies	6	„ Tomatoes	28
Imported Beef	123	„ Evap. Milk	14 $\frac{3}{4}$
Imported Lamb	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	„ Pineapple	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dried Apricots	28	„ Pork Luncheon	
Tinned Corned Beef	36	Meat	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
„ Pears	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	„ Nescafe	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
„ Peaches	16	„ Oranges	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
„ Plums	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	„ Sheeps' Livers	10
„ Steak	4	„ Ham	101 $\frac{3}{4}$
„ Tongue	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	„ Fruit Cocktail	2
„ Apricots	43	„ Pilchards	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
„ Cherries	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	„ Pork	13 $\frac{3}{4}$
„ Grapefruit	12	„ Brisling	1 $\frac{1}{2}$

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Samples of food taken for analysis during the year included:—

- 17 samples of raw milk.
- 2 samples of ice cream
- 1 sample of bread and butter.
- 1 sample of soup.
- 1 sample of table jelly.
- 1 sample of cake mix.

All these were found to be genuine.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

There was one case of suspected food poisoning during the year, which was not confirmed. The annual return required by Circular 46/49, Memo 188/MED, was submitted to the Ministry of Health.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1938—PART 1 OF THE ACT.

Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector)

Premises	M/C line	Number on	No. of		M/C line
			Register	Inspections	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	7	12	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	34	81	0	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) ...	3	—	—	—	3
Total	—	41	93	0	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	M/C line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found			No. of cases in which	M/C line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred		
				To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Prosecutions Inspector were instituted	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7) (8)
Want of Cleanliness (51)	...	0	0	—	—	4
Overcrowding (52)	...	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable						
Temperature (53)	...	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate Ventilation (54)	...	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of						
Floors (56)	...	—	—	—	—	8

Particulars	M/C	Number of cases in which				No. of	M/C
	line	defects were found				cases	line
	No.	Found	Remedied	Referred		in which	No.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
				To H.M. By H.M. Prosecutions			
				Inspector	Inspector	were	
						instituted	
Sanitary Conveniences (57)							
(a) Insufficient ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	0	0	—	1	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork ...	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
Total ...	60	—	—	—	1	—	60

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949
REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1955

Name of Local Authority, Dartmouth (County) Devon

	Type of Property	Non-Agricultural			Agricultural	
		Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	All Other including B. Premises	Total of Cols. 1, 2 & 3	
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
I	Number of properties in Local Authority's district ...	10	1803	446	2259	20
II	Number of properties inspected as a result of:—					
	(a) Notification ...	4	81	16	101	0
	(b) Survey under the Act ...	2	180	97	291	12
	(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	4	20	7	31	2

	Type of Property				Agricultural
	Local Authority	Non-Agricultural Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	All Other including B. Premises	Total of Cols. 1, 2 & 3	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
III	Total inspections carried out including re-inspections. (To be completed only if figures are readily available) ...				
IV	Number of properties inspected (in Sect. II) which were found to be infested by				
	(a) Rats	(Major) ...			
		(Minor) ...	5	27	—
	Mice	(Major) ...			
		(Minor) ...	6	56	—
V	Number of infested properties (in Sect. IV) treated by the L.A. (Figures should NOT exceed those given in Sect. IV) ...				
	4	68	11	83	—

	Local Authority	Type of Property			Agricultural
		Non-Agricultural	All	Total	
		Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	Other including B. Premises	of Cols. 1, 2 & 3	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
VI	Total treatments carried out— including re-treatments. (To be completed only if figures are readily available)	—	—	—	—
VII	Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:— (a) Treatment (b) Structural Work (i.e. proofing)	—	—	—	—
VIII	No. of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sect. 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—
IX	Legal Proceedings (see overleaf)	—	—	—	—
X	Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	—	—	—	—

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

One operator is employed and works alternate weeks at Dartmouth and Brixham. This arrangement has worked well and infestations have been kept well under control.

Visits to properties were as follows:—

Agricultural	...	...	...	...	...	14
Private Premises	...	...	...	...	...	358
Business Premises	...	...	...	...	...	109

Sewers were test baited twice during the year and no evidence of infestation was found.

Estimated kill—Rats 461.

„ „ Mice 200.

SCHOOLS

All the milk supplied to schools was pasteurised and samples taken throughout the year were satisfactory.

The water supply to all the schools is from the town's chlorinated supply.

The cooking centre for school meals has always been found on inspection to be well maintained. The standard of hygiene has been most satisfactory and a credit to the Manageress, Mrs. D. E. Williams.

DISINFECTION & DISINFESTATION

The incidence of infectious disease was very low during the year and little use was made of the steam disinfectors which, however, is always kept in sound working order.

Seventeen premises including three Council houses were treated for vermin.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

The one caravan site containing 25 caravans, and one holiday camp, were very well maintained.

The supply of piped water to the caravan site has enabled the owner to install modern W.C.'s and a septic tank system of drainage.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to get a piped water supply to the holiday camp and it is therefore necessary to depend upon rain water, supplemented by well water.

Samples when tested bacteriologically proved satisfactory.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There is only one Registered User of Rag Flock. Supplies are obtained from licenced premises outside the Borough. No samples were taken during the year.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

Sunday trading was again the principal concern during the year. Traders are now, however, aware of their responsibilities and have responded well to advice. Periodic inspections under the Act were carried out and no notices were issued.

PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES

One caravan site and three houses, which were dependent upon unsatisfactory water supplies from shallow wells, were connected during the year to the South Devon Water Board's main supply.

There are, however, still 38 properties which depend upon private water supplies of doubtful purity.

During the year 79 water samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, more than 50 per cent of these shewed evidence of pollution. This was not surprising considering that most of them were derived from shallow wells or springs rising on agricultural ground. Consumers were advised to boil all water shewing evidence of pollution.

PETROLEUM AND EXPLOSIVE ACTS

Number of licenses granted to store Petroleum ...	10
Number of licenses granted to store Mixed	
Explosives	11

GAME DEALERS' LICENSES

There were four licenses granted during the year authorising the dealing in game.

In conclusion I should like to thank the Council and my colleagues in other departments, particularly the Borough Engineer and his staff for their help and co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

V. E. HUGHES, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.H.,

Sanitary Inspector,
Meat and Foods Inspector, Etc.

